

## Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /089 W

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P R 041332Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8439

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 6071

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, AG

SUBJECT: GOP - ANGOLAN RELATIONS

SUMMARY: AT THE CONCLUSION OF A CONVERSATION ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, PRIME MINISTER SOARES ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO USG THE RESULTS OF SOCIALIST PARTY PRESIDENT MACEDO'S MISSION TO ANGOLA. THE RPA DESIRED TO REOPEN RELATIONS WITH THE GOP, AND TO BROADEN ITS LINKS WITH EUROPE. SOARES WOULD LIKE AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH US ON STRATEGY TOWARD ANGOLA. END SUMMARY.

1. IN CONVERSATION SEPTEMBER 3, SOARES TOLD ME THAT THE MISSION TO ANGOLA LEAD BY SOCIALIST PARTY  
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PRESIDENT ANTONIO MACEDO HAD EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS. THE

GROUP HAD GONE PREPARED TO PROPOSE AN EXCHANGE OF CONSULS GENERAL, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS AND SUBSEQUENTLY BY A MEETING BETWEEN NETO AND SOARES.

2. THE ANGOLANS RESPONDED BY PROPOSING THE IMMEDIATE REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THROUGHOUT THE TALKS THE ANGOLANS DEMONSTRATED A STRONG DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL. THEY EVEN TALKED OF A PRIVILEGED RELATIONSHIP. THEY APPARENTLY WERE IN NEED OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND WERE ANTICIPATING THE RETURN OF PORTUGUESE TECHNICIANS. THE ANGOLANS ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT PORTUGAL COULD HELP THEM ESTABLISH LINKS WITH EUROPE. ACCORDING TO SOARES, THEY EVEN DISCUSSED EVENTUALLY "ESTABLISHING CONTACTS THAT WOULD FACILITATE THEIR REENTRY INTO THE UN."

3. SOARES SAID THE ANGOLANS STRESSED TO THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION THAT THEY WERE NOT LACKEYS OF RUSSIA. THEY FELT THEY HAD BEEN PUSHED INTO THE ARMS OF THE SOVIETS, BUT NOW WISHED TO DEVELOP A MORE INDEPENDENT POSITION. SOARES SAID THE GOP DELEGATION HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO THE ANGOLANS THAT THEY SHOULD DEAL WITH THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT IN POWER AND NOT THROUGH THE PCP. THE ANGOLANS HAD EVEN APPEARED RECEPTIVE TO THIS CHANGE.

4. SOARES SAID THE DELEGATION HAD THE IMPRESSION CONDITIONS HAD IMPROVED IN ANGOLA. STORES WERE BETTER STOCKED AND PEOPLE SEEMED GENERALLY TO HAVE MORE MONEY. WHEN THEY QUESTIONED ANGOLANS ON THIS THE MOST FREQUENT REPLY WAS THAT THEY WERE RECEIVING MONEY FROM THE AMERICANS FOR PETROLEUM SALES. VERY LITTLE CREDIT WAS GIVEN SOVIET AID. THE DELEGATION ALSO HAD THE FEELING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ON MORE SOLID GROUND. INTERNAL FIGHTING HAD SUBSIDED SOMEWHAT, AND NETO SEEMED TO BE GAINING THE UPPER HAND OVER ALVES.

5. SOARES SAID THERE WERE STILL MANY CONTENTIOUS ISSUES BETWEEN THE GOP AND THE RPA, SUCH AS THE DETENTION OF PORTUGUESE CITIZENS AND THE CONFISCATION OF PORTUGUESE PROPERTY. NEVERTHELESS, HE IS GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY NETO'S REACTION. ANGOLA WAS STILL A BONE IN HIS THROAT; HE SAID: "WE DEFEATED  
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THE COMMUNISTS HERE BUT WE LOST TO THEM ANGOLA." IN THIS CONNECTION HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE VALUABLE TO HAVE EXCHANGES WITH US ON A STRATEGY DESIGNED TO REDUCE SOVIET INFLUENCE IN ANGOLA.

6. I WOULD APPRECIATE AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE WHICH I COULD CONVEY TO SOARES.  
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## Message Attributes

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